GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1756
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2016
Sex-Ratio in India
Hemamalini Smt. ;Misra Shri Ajay (Teni);Singh Dr. Prabhas Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Supreme Court has recently expressed serious concern at the skewed sex ratio across the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has made any study to assess the impact of policies aimed at improving skewed sex ratio in various districts of the country, if so, the details thereof along with the child sex ratio in the country as per Census 2011 and the State-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that most of the private hospitals and diagnostic centres are helping people just for monetary gains;

(d) if so, the details of the action that the Government proposes to take against such hospitals and diagnostic centres which are involved in disclosing sex of child;

(e) whether there has been decline in female foeticide since 2014, if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme to provide education, health and equal opportunities to the girls to check the female foeticide and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): Yes, Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) 349 of 2006 (Voluntary Health Association of Punjab Vs. Union Of India & Ors.) has passed the judgement on 8th November, 2016 and has expressed serious concern on the skewed sex ratio across the country.

(b): No, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not conducted any study to assess the impact of policies aimed at improving sex ratio in various districts of the country. As per the Census, 2011 the child sex ratio has shown decline from 927 females per thousand males in 2001 to 918 females per thousand males in 2011. The State/UT-wise details are at annexure.

(c) & (d): The Government has enacted the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, for prohibition of sex selection before or after conception and for prevention of misuse of pre-conception and pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination. The Act provides penalties and punishment for the violations of the provisions of the Act and Rules made thereunder. Main penalties are as follows:-
(i) for doctors/owner of clinics:
â€¢ Up to 3 years of imprisonment with fine up to Rs. 10,000 for the first offence.
â€¢ Up to 5 years of imprisonment with fine up to Rs. 50,000 for subsequent offence.
â€¢ Suspension of registration with the Medical Council if charges are framed by the court and till the case is disposed of, removal of the name for 5 years from the medical register in the case of first offence and permanent removal in case of subsequent offence.
(ii) for husband/family member or any other person abetting sex selection:
â€¢ Up to 3 years of imprisonment with a fine up to Rs. 50,000 for the first offence.
â€¢ Up to 5 years of imprisonment with fine up to Rs. 1 lakh for subsequent offence.
(iii) for any advertisement regarding sex selection:
â€¢ Up to 3 years of imprisonment and up to Rs. 10,000 fine.

(e): As per information received from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 45 cases of female foeticide have been reported in 2015 as compared to 50 cases reported in 2014, showing a declining of 10%.

(f): As per information received from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme has been launched by Prime Minister on 22 January, 2015 now covering 161 selected districts with low child sex ratio, to address the issue of declining child sex ratio and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries

of Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Human Resource Development. This initiative of Government aims to address the issue of declining child sex ratio through a mass media campaign across the country and focused multi sectoral intervention in the identified districts.